



Photo by Shayna Brouker

## Jolly Old Elf

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden community children and adults swarm Santa Claus upon his arrival at the annual Tree Lighting celebration Dec. 5 in front of the Wiesbaden Fitness Center on Clay Kaserne. Community members welcomed the holidays in a variety of ways around the community, including performances at surrounding German Christmas markets. See more holiday photos throughout this issue and more Tree Lighting celebration photos on pages 16 and 17.

## Legal acclaim

Wiesbaden Claims Office receives Army excellence award honors for FY 2014

By Chrystal Smith  
U. S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden  
Public Affairs Office

Of the numerous offices that try, often less than half are found worthy.

And for fiscal year 2014, the Wiesbaden Legal Center's Claims Office was among the distinguished group to receive the Judge Advocate General's Award for Excellence in Claims.

A total of 20 offices were awarded worldwide of 100 that went through the application process; of the offices in Europe, it was one of five honored.

The last time the office was recognized was 2007, having made only one application for the award since.

And while a fiscal year 2013 application didn't result in an award, the effort of going through the application process proved to be extremely helpful to the current success of the staff.

"That was what gave us a foundation to build a successful application that was worthy of winning," said Alexandra Glidewell, claims examiner.

Glidewell said there was significant change that happened with the office between 2007 and 2013 that brought major overhaul, and reaching a point of steadiness was necessary before the office could again offer a viable application for the excellence award.

And eventually it did, and "It's all due to the efforts of Capt. Justin Nottingham," said Glidewell, explaining that Nottingham was the officer-in-charge of the office from 2012-2014.

**See Excellence on page 3**

## Telehealth takes Wiesbaden into future

Story and photo by  
Shayna Brouker  
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden  
Public Affairs Office

Need to get some face time with a doc? It could be as simple as Skyping; well almost as simple.

House calls to office appointments to a video conference — medical care continues to progress to keep up with technology, and Wiesbaden Army Health Clinic is leading the charge for Army clinics worldwide. On Dec. 1, WAHC was the first to debut its telehealth primary care pilot clinic, which allows patients to simply stop in for a consultation with a doctor at Landstuhl Regional Medical

Center via high-definition videophone.

LRMC Commander Col. Judith Lee institutionalized telehealth at Landstuhl and outlying clinics in order to connect patients with medical specialists faster and more economically than ever before. WAHC and the Landstuhl telehealth office combined resources to pilot the use of the primary care over telehealth. The pilot will last for six months, and the service is currently available at WAHC Monday and Wednesday afternoons, for about seven patients each day.

"It's tried, true and proven," said Lt. Col. LaShanda Cobbs, WAHC commander, of the practice that has already been implemented in civilian hospitals

stateside. "We have the ability to provide care that is much more convenient. We think it's going to be a win-win for our patients."

If patients call or visit for an appointment at the clinic and none are available that day with a Wiesbaden provider, a nurse will triage the patient to screen for criteria that make them a candidate for a telehealth appointment. For example, the clinic cannot see patients with chronic conditions — only acute issues, such as a virus. If they meet the criteria, they will have the option to be seen by one of five Army health care providers located at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

**See Telehealth on page 3**

## Inside

### Winter wonder

USO offers more services with new facility and holds winter fest for community families. See page 8.



### STEM vs. Ebola

DoDDS students use science, technology, engineering and math knowledge to solve Ebola crisis. See page 11.



### Polizei performers

Germans and Americans mingle music with friendship. See pages 16.



# Here's to you

Honoring longtime editor, journalist after 35-year career

This issue we dedicate to one of our own: the ubiquitous and widely admired editor of the Herald Union, Karl Weisel. Karl retired after an illustrious 35-year career as a Department of the Army public affairs specialist at installations around Germany, including Frankfurt, Darmstadt, Hanau and Wiesbaden. His honors include Keith L. Ware Civilian Print Journalist of the Year (1994), the Installation Management Command Stalwart Award, the Hessen Minister President's German-American Friendship Award, the Meritorius Civilian Service Award, the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs Master Craftsman Award and numerous Keith L. Ware public affairs awards. "Recently, he earned €1,342 from recycling the metal in his USAREUR-level KLV award plaques," joked Troy Darr, acting chief of Installation Management Command Europe public affairs.

Karl voluntarily went to Iraq in 2003 to cover units deploying there from the 104th Area Support Group, producing two special issues of the *Herald Union* filled with stories from downrange.

"During the hot summer of 2003, you made it a point to visit us in Iraq and even featured one of my Soldiers in your paper," said Thomas Blakely, director of Readiness and Resilience. "This is just one small example of the numerous times you went above and beyond to tell the stories of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members. You have truly made a positive difference in the lives of many people. Thank you."

Karl is indeed a master craftsman in the art of public affairs, possessing the remarkable ability to forge connections far and wide throughout the community, make time (and space in the *Herald Union*) for anyone and everyone who needed to share their story, and maintain a level of journalistic excellence.

"Karl is absolutely phenomenal. Not only an excellent photographer, but never seen without a smile on his face," said Jan Meert, Army Community Services director. "I've counted on him for years to support ACS and our plethora of events, and Karl never once let us down. He always made time to provide fantastic photos and excellent articles reflecting our efforts. Thank you Karl for just being an all around awesome person. You will be missed by the entire ACS team, and especially myself."

Karl is a true professional who balanced business with humility and an exceptional sense of humor. He will be missed for these qualities as well as his dedication to remarkable storytelling, his patience and his kindness. Karl, on behalf of the Wiesbaden community and the countless Soldiers, civilians and Army family members you've touched with your words and compassion, thank you.



# Freedom 6 sends

## Strong USAREUR supports Strong Europe

By Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges  
Commander of U.S. Army Europe

Having been in command of this outstanding organization for only a few short weeks, this holiday season I can truly say I am absolutely thankful for the professionalism and dedication of U.S. Army Europe Soldiers, civilians, families and allies.

As I have traveled around our area of responsibility to countries such as Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania and Poland, and throughout Germany, I have seen firsthand the relationships, capabilities, infrastructure and exercises that assure access for U.S. forces; enabling early entry versus forcible entry and building capacity in Partnership for Peace and allied nations.

To me all of those are examples of the U.S. Army's contribution to what NATO and U.S. European Command are trying to do over here: Support a Strong Europe.

The Strong Europe concept aims to create beneficial opportunities, improve interoperability and capacity in partners



Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges

In this respect, Strong Europe is USAREUR's main contribution to NATO and its allies and partners, as we act as the main enabler for NATO land forces, on behalf of U.S. European Command.

On Thanksgiving I saw U.S. Army Soldiers in the Baltics and Poland working and training as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve to assure our allies and deter Russia — that is Strong Europe.

Strong Europe is our forward-station presence, enabling open intelligence cooperation with our host nation, allies and partners, and allowing us to contribute to a common secure environment.

Strong Europe is everything we do to support the success of our regionally aligned forces from

and allies and facilitate U.S. and NATO logistical infrastructure, resulting in ease of movement between member nations.

reception, staging, onward movement and integration to exercises at our great Joint Multinational Training Command.

I am convinced that USAREUR is playing an essential role in facilitating interoperability throughout NATO and partner land forces and will enable the alliance wherever possible to face its threats and challenges.

Team, I want to thank you for all that you are doing here every day in support of our mission and our Allies. You make the Army strong and you contribute to a strong Europe.

I wish you all the very best this holiday season. As you celebrate with your Families, friends and loved ones, remember our teammates deployed around the world — in the mountains of Afghanistan, the sands of Kuwait, the valleys of Kosovo and on a cold mountain top in Turkey. Let's keep our Soldiers in our thoughts and prayers.

Happy Holidays.  
Army Strong, Strong Europe.

# Ask the commander

**Editor's note:** Have something you'd like to share with the commander? Visit the garrison's Facebook page (*Garrison Wiesbaden*), send an ICE comment or contact the Commander's Hotline (click the Feedback link on the garrison home page).

**Praise for Soldier Show**  
(Editor's note: Several people submitted ICE cards expressing thanks for the recent Army Soldier Show in Wiesbaden.)

**Theresa E. commented:** You made me laugh, feel proud and cry. I was on a rollercoaster of emotions.

**Tomekia W. wrote:** Great show ... excellent entertainment,



Col. Mary Martin, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander

your feedback and for a fantastic performance from the members of the Army Soldier Show.

**Parking issue**

**Ed J. commented:** I am a handicapped person with a handicapped parking card that I treasure. However, this past Saturday and again on Sunday one of the vendors had his vehicle parked in one of

these spots at the Main Exchange. Luckily, I was able to find another spot down the street. I looked for an MP for assistance, but none was around, and I did not find it necessary to call the desk. Perhaps it is a trivial matter, but I think whoever did park there with no handicap card is out of line, and the situation needs to be corrected.

**Response:** Ed, after receiving your email, the staff at the Military Police Station made every effort to identify the owner of the referred vehicle. The MPs will also now coordinate regular checks, as will the Exchange manager, to ensure this doesn't happen again in the future. Should you experience a similar inconvenience, please feel

**See Ask the commander on page 4**

## Command and newspaper staff

**USAG Wiesbaden Commander**.....Col. Mary L. Martin  
**USAG Wiesbaden Command Sergeant Major**  
.....Command Sgt. Maj. Roy L. Rocco  
**Public Affairs Officer**.....Anemone Rueger  
**Editor**.....Chrystal Smith (mil 548-2003)  
**Reporter**.....Shayna Brouker (mil 548-2004)

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# News flash

## Retiree re-enrollment at clinic

The Wiesbaden Army Health Clinic can again offer health care services to retirees in the nearby area, and health care providers are seeking to reenroll approximately 300 retirees into its health care system by June 1. Military retirees can sign up at the Wiesbaden Tricare Office to receive primary health care services from local providers.

## Avoid Customs fines

Mailing packages stateside from Europe involves many prohibitions, restrictions and import duty rules. U.S. Customs and Border Protection may fine one at least \$100 for mailing meat or any meat products to the United States. Banned products include canned meats, pate, salami, sausage and soup mixes containing meat. It is also illegal to mail handguns, alcoholic beverages and a whole list of other items to the U.S. Other articles may need special import permits. A customs declaration must be fixed to every parcel going to U.S. and falsifying it is a federal crime. Also, foreign-made goods sent to the U.S. may be subject to the payment of duty, regardless of the recipient or if purchased in a military exchange. U.S. residents may receive up to \$100 worth of foreign-made goods per day, but have to pay duty on the total value of gifts exceeding that amount. Visit [www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id\\_visa/kbyg/gifts.xml](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/kbyg/gifts.xml). (Courtesy of the U.S. Army Europe Customs Office)

## Holiday closings

The Directorate of Public Works' Housing Customer Service Branch (located in Building 1023W on Clay Kaserne) will close at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 19 for a holiday celebration. The Wiesbaden Dental Clinic will be closed for the holidays on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. The following offices will be closed for the holidays Dec. 19 from noon to 4 p.m., Dec. 24-26, 31 and Jan. 2: Driver's Training and Testing, Transportation Motor Pool, Installation Property Book Office, Central Issue Facility, Personal Property Processing Office and Privately Owned Vehicle Inspection Point. Andrews Federal Credit Union will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 and will close at 1 p.m. Dec. 24 and at 3 p.m. Dec. 31

## AER application

Get around-the-clock access to Army Emergency Relief information thanks to a new AER application for iPhones and devices using the Android operating system at the Apple app store and Google Play. Soldiers can go to their respective app store and download the AER app for free (enter "Army Emergency Relief" in the search field). The app provides basic information on AER, frequently asked questions and more.

## Expedited screening

The Transportation Security Administration has extended its expedited screening benefits to students of the four U.S. service academies — the U.S. Military Academy, Naval Academy, Coast Guard Academy and Air Force Academy. Last year the TSA extended its expedited screening benefits to all U.S. Armed Forces service members, including those serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, Reserves and National Guard. The program allows participating flyers to leave on their shoes, light outerwear and belt, keep their laptop in its case and keep compliant liquids/gels in a carry-on bag while being screened at more than 120 participating airports and flying on 11 major airlines. Service members/students should use their Department of Defense ID card to obtain the expedited screening. The TSA has extended the expedited screening benefits to civilian DoD employees who follow an "opt-in" process online. For more information visit [tsa.gov](http://tsa.gov) or [defensetravel.dod.mil](http://defensetravel.dod.mil). (TSA Public Affairs)

# Excellence .....

## Continued from page 1

"He picked the Claims Operations up out of rubble and made it a good program, like it used to be. We built on that effort from last year, and were able to improve the operation and win.

"We are now in a position of stability," added Glidewell.

The content of the award package highlighted the challenges the office overcame amid a major period of transition and transformation of the Wiesbaden military community. That time included the U.S. Army Europe Headquarters relocation from Heidelberg, the inactivation of the V Corps and its relocation to Fort Bliss, Texas in 2013.

Also of note were efforts the office made in relation to U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden to address issues that directly affect the community in a timely manner. Examples include reviewing every blotter released and monitoring local news looking for potentially compensable events. The Claims Department also ensures the community is informed about the claims process and any relevant information they made need to know about filing a claim. That effort includes providing an in-processing brief to all arriving personnel plus additional outreach efforts.

"That entire time they managed to do all that," said Curtis Parker, chief of Client Services.

And the "all that" which Claims Offices does is to investigate, adjudicate, and settle claims filed both on behalf of the United States and against the United States. These include personnel claims, tort claims, affirmative claims and Article 139 claims.

"Stuff coming in crates from overseas necessitates the presence and work of the Claims Office," said Maj. Joshua Kessler, Wiesbaden Legal Center officer-in-charge.

"Most people see (members of the staff) as the one paying you for that widget that was broken, or for the scratch that was made on your car during shipment," said Glidewell.

"But the office does much more than that. We act as an umbrella for any loss that one may sustain, incident to their services."

Generally, personnel claims arise from damage to personal property incident to service such as damage to household goods during shipment as well as claims for damage in on-post quarters caused by fire, flood, unusual occurrence, theft or vandalism.

Tort claims are claims arising out of personal injury, wrongful death or property damage alleg-

edly caused by the negligence of a government employee acting within the scope of his or her employment, including both medical malpractice and some motor vehicle accidents.

Affirmative claims include medical care recovery claims and property damage claims. One example is, if a service member or family member is injured in a motor vehicle accident and the government provides medical care, the Claims Office will make a demand for the cost of the medical care to the person responsible for the accident.

"This is a morale program that is meant to compensate service members in their incidence to service," said Glidewell.

The Judge Advocate General's Award for Excellence in Claims is an annual award designed to recognize outstanding field claims offices. The criteria measure the type and number of personnel dedicated to processing claims and various indications of excellence.

"This is a prestigious award. It demonstrates to our peers and the outside world that we exhibit great competence in our job," said Glidewell, claims examiner. "We will display it proudly in our customer service waiting area, hoping it will increase the confidence of our clientele."

# Telehealth .....

## Continued from page 1

(The providers are in administrative positions, and volunteering their time to "see" patients allows them to keep their clinical skills and credentials current.)

Telehealth allows primary-care providers to manage cases that previously would result in referrals to either private-sector providers on the economy, or distant military specialists, according to a news release from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

For Wiesbaden patients, it means avoiding a trip off-post to a German doctor or a drive down to Landstuhl.

Nurse Irfan Bojicic is on hand to administer stethoscopes, a skin camera, scope and other instruments so that the provider can examine the patient virtually. He moved from Patch Clinic in Stuttgart, where specialty care telehealth patients grew from two



Irfan Bojicic, telehealth nurse coordinator, takes Ann Engledinger's vitals in preparation for a telehealth appointment Dec. 9.

to three a month to two to three a day, to help launch the program in Wiesbaden.

"It's a good experience for the patients to be seen here," he said. "I can do most of the things providers can do — looking in their ears, listening to their heartbeat. For all of them so far,

it is their first experience [with telehealth] and they're very happy with it."

For more information about the program, contact Capt. William Cave, WAHC executive officer, at [william.c.cave.mil@mail.mil](mailto:william.c.cave.mil@mail.mil) or mil 590-1318 or civ (0611) 143-590-1318.



## From the blotter

Compiled by the U.S. Army Garrison  
Wiesbaden Directorate of Emergency Services

**Nov. 27**

**Traffic accident:** A civilian employee is being charged with a traffic accident: Failure to yield the right-of-way, causing property damage.

**Nov. 29**

**Traffic accident:** A civilian is being charged with a traffic accident: Inattentive driving.

**Nov. 30**

**Traffic accident:** A noncommissioned officer is being charged with a traffic accident: Following too closely.

**Simple Assault:** A Soldier is being charged with simple assault consummated by a battery.

**Dec. 1**

**Traffic accident:** An Airman is being charged with traffic accident: Inattentive driving and fleeing the scene.

**Dec. 2**

**Driving while impaired:** An officer is being charged with driving while impaired: Under the influence of alcohol.

**Failure to obey order or regulation:** An NCO, three Soldiers and four civilians are being charged with failure to obey order or regulation: Owning an unregistered vehicle.

**Dec. 3**

**Larceny of AAFES property:** A Soldier is being charged with larceny of Army and Air Force Exchange Service property.

**Traffic accident:** A Soldier is being charged with traffic accident: Failure to judge proper distance.

**Dec. 4**

**Failure to obey order or regulation:** Two civilians, an NCO and a Soldier are being charged with failure to obey order or regulation: Owning an unregistered vehicle.

**Traffic accident:** An NCO is being charged with traffic accident: Failure to clear the rear.

**Traffic accident:** A Soldier is being charged with a traffic accident: Inattentive driving.

**Traffic accident:** A civilian is being charge with a traffic accident: Failure to judge proper distance.

**Dec. 6**

**Traffic accident:** A family member is being charged with a traffic accident: Inattentive driving.

**Traffic accident:** A civilian is being charged with a traffic accident: Failure to judge proper distance.

**Traffic accident:** A Soldier is being charged with a traffic accident: Inattentive driving.

**Dec. 8**

**Failure to obey order or regulation:** A Soldier is being charged with failure to obey order or regulation: Owning an unregistered vehicle.

**Dec. 9**

**Failure to obey order or regulation:** A family member is being charged with failure to obey order or regulation: Owning an unregistered vehicle.

**Traffic accident:** A civilian is being charged with a traffic accident: Inattentive driving.

**Dec. 10**

**Failure to obey order or regulation:** An NCO is being charged with failure to obey order or regulation: Owning an unregistered vehicle.



## Spreading holiday cheer

A choir of Wiesbaden Middle School students, at the direction of Melissa Gitlin, spread holiday cheer to those at the Hochheim Schneeflockenmarkt during a short music performance on the market's center stage Dec. 7. Students from the Wiesbaden military schools participated in the annual market with singing and playing in celebration of the holidays in the nearby town.

Photo by Sven Wolter

# Ask the commander . . .

*Continued from page 2  
free to contact the MP Station so that they can address the situation without delay. Thanks for bringing this to my attention — it is engaged community involvement like yours that helps truly make Wiesbaden: Your home in Germany.*

### Lighting in Crestview

Joana L. commented: I am a resident of Crestview since February 2014. I am writing to express my concern about how poorly lit the walkway between our stairwell entrances and parking area is. While the parking areas are all adequately lit, this is not the case for the walkway leading to and from the building which also consists of a small set of stairs (about 3-4 steps). The dark walkway is even more apparent due to less amount of daylight during this season and some current roof replacement construction. I did read the article published in the Nov. 20, 2014 *Herald Union* and understand that a suspect has been apprehended following a series of storage room thefts in Crestview Housing area. I am relieved to learn of this recent success by the Polizei and the MP's collaboration. I am, however, still concerned about the abandoned buildings and multiple dark areas throughout Crestview Housing. I have noticed that there is a very nice flood light illuminating the outside of a Crestview Housing building but I have no idea if that was provided by the Garrison or if that is something that the residents of that stairwell took upon themselves to set up. Either way, I would like to know if better lighting can be provided for the 11-12 Merkurstrasse walkways.

*Response: Joana, thank you for*

*your note. We are looking at what we can do to brighten the Crestview area to ensure it is safe for our families who reside in that area. The Directorate of Public Works is developing projects to increase the exterior lighting on existing facilities and to provide additional lighting on exterior walkways in Hainerberg, Crestview and Aukamm. Additionally, the DPW is discussing options to improve street lighting with the private utility owner.*

### Texasstrasse traffic pattern change

Nathan G.: Blocking traffic except for school buses on Texas Strasse from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., does not appear to provide any relief. What studies were done? If anything, it will cause more traffic problems because the traffic that came in on Texasstrasse will now come in on Floridastrasse, and Floridastrasse is actually narrowed at the intersection of Texasstrasse due to the crosswalk with the sidewalk that blocks a lane of traffic. More traffic will mix with the buses on this street and will likely cause issues. Additionally, why do you need to close that section of Floridastrasse to traffic during the whole day? What bus activity is going on between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.? And making it one way will cause further inconveniences. I come in this way every morning to drop my kids at school, and I exit this way after getting my groceries from the commissary. This exit/entrance road allows me the shortest amount of time on Hainerberg roads. In effect, this traffic flow design change will cause more on post traffic. In the afternoons, the traffic on Washingtonstrasse going towards New York Strasse is so bad that it is difficult to exit from the PX. This traffic design flow diverts more traffic to this exit. Please do not

implement this traffic flow change. I would recommend removing all crosswalk sidewalks that block one lane of traffic, and continue to ensure well trained MPs direct the traffic at the school in the morning.

*Response: Thank you for your note referencing Hainerberg traffic. There was a traffic study done in conjunction with the new Access Control Point and high school projects to ensure adequate access remains. Our actions now are in response to a safety concern for the students in the temporary classrooms along Texasstrasse. There is only a fence and a low curb that prevents a vehicle from swerving into the classrooms. Jersey barriers were emplaced along the side of the street, thus making two-way traffic impractical. As for limiting the traffic to buses only during the school hours, this is an additional precaution we are taking to ensure the security of the school children. As all other school areas are fenced with appropriate stand-off distance except these temporary classrooms. Floridastrasse will not be closed, but you will have to make a right turn only onto Texasstrasse. By April 2015, all Hainerberg will be enclosed and secured with an access control point. Texasstrasse gate will remain open to New York Strasse at all times. You will have to use Mississippistrasse (past the Lodge) to exit that gate. Additionally, the Washingtonstrasse access to B455 has reopened, which provides another option for maneuvering about that area. Also to improve circulation, construction will begin in about three months to open Virginiastrasse (near the Elementary School) to Texasstrasse. Let us know if you have additional concerns.*

# Leaders, educators talk traffic, bullying and ID cards

Story and photo by  
Shayna Brouker

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden  
Public Affairs Office

Traffic changes, anti-bullying efforts and ID card policy changes topped discussion at the quarterly Installation Advisory Committee meeting Dec. 3 among garrison leaders, school administrators, educators and parents.

Roger Gerber, director of the Transformation Stationing Management Office, detailed the changes construction and security are bringing to traffic patterns in Hainerberg housing area. A temporary access control point will be in place by April 15 to support the opening of the new AAFES shopping center. The temporary ACP will be on Washingtonstrasse near the current Post Exchange entrance and will provide the only entry to Hainerberg.

Additionally, there will be an exit only on the B455 end of Washingtonstrasse (near the new PX). There will be a pedestrian/bicycle gate by the high school and a pedestrian gate near the AAFES fuel sta-

tion where the exit turnstile is now. Both of these gates are automated and require a military ID for access.

Demolition of the high school buildings will continue through January 2015 with construction of the new classroom building starting in March 2015. Demolition of the family housing buildings across from the elementary school will start in the summer of 2015 in preparation for the new middle school, which will start in spring 2016.

"In the long run, it's all for the better," said U.S. Army Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Roy Rocco, who presided over the meeting alongside Peter Witmer, school liaison officer. "Everyone needs to understand that—please relay it to teachers and parents."

Witmer emphasized the need for children to wear reflective gear on their way to and from school as the winter days become shorter, using a reflective slap bracelet he hands out to students as an example.

The inclement weather procedure was also revisited.

The garrison commander will make the call for delayed arrival or early release no later than 4:30 a.m., and the SLO will be notified along with school principals. When the commander delays report time or releases employees early, it applies to civilian employees for all directorates, staff, tenant units and agencies in the Wiesbaden community. Active-duty military personnel are invited to follow the commander's intent, but remain under the control of their chain of command.

Lt. Col. Joseph Hissim, director of Emergency Services, said the directorate is seeing an increase in fake ID cards used by teenagers. They directed Pond security guards to pay extra attention to dependent ID cards and verify the pictures match the information. Guards will check all dependents, particularly if they are alone or with other dependents.

School principals also signed an anti-bullying pledge and briefed how they are fostering friendly school environments. The high school focuses on safe



U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Command Sgt. Maj. Roy Rocco and educators look on as Wiesbaden school principals sign the anti-bullying pledge.

dating, being good citizens and "not believing what they say [about teens] in the movies, and knowing it's ok to say no," said Principal Greg Hatch.

Aukamm Elementary School focuses on a character trait of the month; encouraging kids to give "Golden Bear shout-outs" to those observed exemplifying commendable behavior, said Principal Bar-

bara Mueller. Hainerberg Elementary School students practice anger management techniques, like deep breathing, and Wiesbaden Middle School briefs each grade level about respectful behavior to "nip bullying in the bud."

The next IAC will be held in February. Parents and school administrators are invited to attend to give their input.

## Civilians honored for length of service

By Shayna Brouker

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden  
Public Affairs Office

More than 70 civilians serving from five to 45 years were recognized for their service at a ceremony Nov. 14 at the Community Activity Center.

"We are here to celebrate the service of employees here in the garrison," said U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Commander Col. Mary Martin. "I want you to know how much we appreciate your service in our great Army."

Martin and Command Sgt. Roy Rocco presented plaques to the employees, in particular pointing out "VIPs" who dedicated more than 40 years of service to the Army: Dr. Robert Schloesser, Gaetano Vecchio, Arthur Chee, Robert Minsky, Joseph Cooper, Leonard Sharp (all from the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation), Salvatore Milazzo and Albert Haempel (both from the Directorate of Public Works).

Roland Geib was awarded



Photo by Volker Ramspott

Col. Mary Martin hands Maria Diaz, of the DFMWR, her five-year length of service award.

his career.

"It's been a privilege for me to work for the U.S. forces here in Germany," he said. "I've gotten to meet a lot of interesting people and had a lot of opportunities given to me as a young guy. I'm quite sure that when I retire I will sit back and have nice memories. I enjoyed the ride."

The length of service ceremony is conducted quarterly. For more photos of the ceremony, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wpao/>.

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Photos by Shayna Brouker

## BOSS 'elves' at work

**Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers representatives and volunteers collected and delivered toys — in snow — for patients at Mainz's cancer hospital for children Dec. 11. They gave a toy to each child in the ward and still brought back enough to be given to a local orphanage.**

## U.S. Customs

# Holiday shopping advice helps save money, choose good gifts

**By Robert Szostek**  
U.S. Army Europe Provost Marshal  
Public Affairs Office

Some people are just not good at buying the right gifts. While this is often a matter of taste, people new to Europe should note that many items available in Europe that may seem like good Christmas presents violate U.S. customs rules.

Some products are banned from the United States and others may only be carried in baggage, but not mailed. Violations of customs, agriculture or postal regulations can lead to hefty fines and confiscation of the goods.

Meat and meat products are the biggest problem, said Scott Sanner, U.S. Department of Agriculture adviser at the U.S. European Command Customs and Border Clearance Agency.

"European delicacies like French pate, German wurst, Spanish chorizo and Italian Parma ham are here for the buying and much sought-after in the States," he said. "Unfortunately, they can also carry foot and mouth disease, a virulent livestock ailment eradicated in the U.S." These products are therefore banned, as are canned meats and even soup mixes or pasta containing meat. Fresh fruits and vegetables are also prohibited because they could harbor pests like the Mediterranean fruit fly.

The threat to U.S. agriculture is so great that Customs and Border Protection fines people who mail or take banned foods to the U.S. a minimum of \$100 as a deterrent. Criminal action for deliberate

cases of smuggling can result in a \$5,000 fine and a year in jail.

Many European countries also make traditional nativity scenes that Americans love to buy. However, the natural products used to make them are sometimes banned from import to the U.S. because of the agricultural pests and diseases that could be nested in or on them, Sanner noted. Shoppers should realize that they should not mail scenes that contain moss, bark, pinecones, untreated straw or other materials found to contain insects. However, agriculture officials say nativity scenes that are produced using finished wood, plastic or commercially cleaned and lacquered straw (except rice straw) are fine to mail.

Europe boasts many fine wines, spirits and liquor-filled candies that make original Christmas gifts. Unfortunately the U.S. Postal Service bans all liquor from being mailed, even if it is inside a piece of candy. However, customs allows travelers over 21 years of age to import one liter of duty-free liquor. "The federal taxes and duties are currently low enough to make it worthwhile to take more than one liter of beer or wine stateside as gifts," said Mike Dean, director of the CBCA. However, state laws must also be met which can add to the cost. Taxes on distilled spirits like Scotch whiskey are generally considered high, he noted.

Cuban rum and cigars are also often available in Europe but prohibited from import stateside by economic sanctions.

And don't be surprised if you get a



**Though well-crafted, nativity scenes like this may be banned from import to the United States. Visit [www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/kbyg/sending-us](http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/kbyg/sending-us) for more information.**

letter from CBP saying they removed "surprise" eggs from the package you mailed stateside. The reason is that Kinder-brand chocolate eggs and similar items are banned in the United States. While many people think the eggs are innocuous, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission believes the toy surprise hidden inside can pose a choking hazard to children younger than three years of age.

Wildlife products also present problems. Buying ivory as a gift is a bad idea, according to customs officials. "Only ivory pieces previously registered with Customs and Border Protection generally may be imported," Dean continued.

Whale teeth carvings, known as netsuke or scrimshaw, are also prohibited from import. When buying furs, shoppers should insist on a certificate of origin stating the animal's scientific name to avoid buying prohibited endangered species products. The movement of caviar is also restricted.

Military customs offices can provide more advice on these and other holiday mail questions. There are many informative pamphlets available from Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Agriculture to ensure holiday gifts don't present problems stateside. Information is also available online at [www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/kbyg/sending-us](http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/kbyg/sending-us).

# Repeat appearance for career counselor of year

**Story and photo by**  
**Sgt. Daniel Cole**  
U.S. Army Europe  
Public Affairs Office

It's only natural that cream rises to the top.

So it's no surprise that for the second consecutive year the cream of the 16th Sustainment Brigade rose above the field of contenders in a U.S. Army Europe annual competition.

Staff Sgt. Efrain Garcia took the top honors of 2014 USAREUR Career Counselor of the Year during competition in November, which tested counselors on a variety of job and Soldier skills.

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, USAREUR commander, formally recognized the New York City native Dec. 5 with an Army Commendation Medal.

The three-day event included a standard Army physical fitness test — consisting of timed intervals of push-ups, sit-ups and a two-mile run; a timed 50-question written test; and an appearance before a board of five sergeants major who tested



**Staff Sgt. Efrain Garcia accepts the USAREUR Career Counselor of the Year sign of honor from Sgt. Maj. Michael Kouneski.**

competitors on their military knowledge, skills and bearing.

Judges assessed each competitor based on the contents of the accompanying package each competitor submitted.

The sergeant said recent injury made the physical training test the hardest part of this year's competition.

"After fracturing my foot months prior to the competition it was uncomfortable running,

but thank God I was able to make it in a time where it kept me competitive," said Garcia.

Though Garcia came out on top in the 2013 USAREUR level of competition, he was unsuccessful at the Army level, as the honor went to fellow USAREUR member Staff Sgt. Eric Detheridge of the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade. Garcia will get another shot at earning the Army title when he competes in

Washington, D.C. in 2015.

Like all Army career counselors, Garcia did not start his military career advising Soldiers.

Garcia applied to become a career counselor.

Garcia applied to become a career counselor after serving first as a microwave systems operator and later as an infantryman.

After two years as a counselor in the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York he moved to Europe, joining the 16th SB in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Garcia said his long-term goals center on helping others to become top Soldiers and career counselors as an instructor at the Army's Recruiting and Retention School at Fort Jackson, S.C., and ultimately as a sergeant major in the Army-level career counselor program.

"I know that when I become a senior career counselor I will be able to develop and mentor fine junior career counselors into

this field and give them the tools needed to succeed," he said.

Garcia's immediate sights are set on returning to the Army-level competition and prove this time that he is the Army's top career counselor, he said.

Garcia also received a gift card from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and three plaques, each commemorating his recent accomplishment.

A military career counselor aids active-duty Soldiers nearing the end of enlistment contracts with reenlisting in the Army; transitioning to Reserve components — if they want to remain in uniform but do not desire to stay on active duty after their contracts end; and changing between military occupational specialties or the job performed in the Army.

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Photos by Shayna Brouker

A dad takes joy in his daughter's exploration of a Frosty the Snowman inflatable ornament at the USO Winter Fest Dec. 13 in Hainerberg Housing. Photo right: Youths take a ride on the miniature carousel.



## USO gifts winter fest, WiFi to Soldiers and families

USO Rhein Main hosted its first Winter Fest Dec. 13 to celebrate with Soldiers and Families. Volunteers from Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and community organizations served up bratwurst, potato soup, kinderpunch, stollen, hot cocoa and other goodies.

The USO also opened its new cottage with a ribbon cut-

ting. The new cottage will offer free WiFi, printing, scanning and faxing, an Xbox One, a snack bar and coffee — staffed fully by USO volunteers. “We want this to be a place where community members can come in and relax — a place of meaningful community,” said Ashley Grassl, USO area operations manager.



Walter Murren, USO Europe regional vice president; Karl-Heinz Stahl, TKS president; Helga Haub, USO advisory council president emeritus; USAG Wiesbaden Commander Col. Mary Martin; Garrison Commander Sgt. Maj. Roy Rocco; and Grant McCormick, USO Rhein Main area director cut the ribbon to open the new cottage in Hainerberg Housing.

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Volunteers hand out kinderpunch to warm the spirits of festivalgoers of all ages.



Photo by Shayna Brouker

### Santa stops at ACS

“Santa” — alias Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Cheney — stops by Army Community Service to hear Christmas wishes Dec. 4. Dozens of good little boys and girls stopped in to make requests. ACS also held a gift drive for its annual Angel Tree program to help give Christmas to those in need.

## Legal Advice: Properly preparing for winter driving can mitigate loss

With the approaching holiday season, many are finalizing plans to visit friends and family, or take a long-awaited vacation to some snowy winter wonderland.

A lot of planning and attention goes into these travel plans, including driving in wintry conditions for long distances. However, it's important not to ignore the winter hazards in your daily drive to and from work. Often when accidents occur, personnel may be able to file claims with the military for their loss, but there are important things you should know in order to help prevent the loss entirely or receive the appropriate amount of compensation through the claims process.

It's important to consider the road conditions when driving. Driving to physical training sessions while it is still dark means the day starts early for many people. Hazards in the road may be less visible at this time. Visibility may also be reduced due to snow. It's not always optimal to go the recommended speed when there is snow or ice on the ground.

Another common hazard during the winter months is icy roads. Maintaining enough distance between the cars could prevent an accident if you hit an

icy patch.

Taking certain precautions can minimize these common hazards. The first is outfitting your car with the proper tires, whether they are all-season or winter tires. Winter tires have tread patterns specifically designed to provide traction in snow and ice.

Another option is snow chains. Snow chains attach to the wheels of a vehicle and can be purchased to match the particular tire size. In some areas of Europe, authorities may require that snow chains or other traction aids be installed on vehicles, or at least supplied for them. This requirement may be enforced at checkpoints or by other types of inspections when traveling through those areas.

Another precaution to take is weighing down the back of your car, especially if you have a rear wheel drive car. Rear wheel drive cars do not have much weight positioned over the rear of the car, so they lack pressure on the rear wheels to keep them from skidding. A solution is to add some weight to the trunk of your car with sand bags.

During the winter you should also



Photo by Karl Weisel

**Drivers are advised to take precautionary steps to be prepared for emergencies in winter driving to lower chances of loss.**

check your washer fluid every time you fill up for gas. If you are going on a long trip, make sure you have a spare gallon of washer fluid in your trunk in case you run low.

Simple steps such as these could possibly save your life or another's. There is always a duty to mitigate damages when filing a claim. Failure to do so could result in contributory negligence. Being prepared for the winter weather

is one way to do so.

If you have any questions about whether you may have a claim, visit the Wiesbaden Area Claims Office in the Welcome Center, Clay Kaserne building 1023W, or call mil 537-0664 or civ (0611) 143-537-0664. The Claims Office is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.; Thursday 1-4 p.m. *(Submitted by the Wiesbaden Legal Center Claims Office)*



## Dear Readers,

**We hope you enjoy this last edition of the Herald Union for 2014.**

AdvantiPro, the publisher of the Herald Union, will close its offices from Monday, December 22 through Friday, January 2. The first 2015 edition of the Herald Union will be distributed on Thursday, January 15. AdvantiPro would like to thank all of its readers to the great support we have enjoyed in 2014.

We are very proud to serve the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden and the military community!

**AdvantiPro**



# Community notes ... Community notes

## Holiday religious events

A Hanukkah celebration with a menorah lighting, dreidels and latkes will be held Dec. 18 from 5-7 p.m. at the Clay Chapel. Contact Chaplain (Capt.) David Ruderman at [david.n.ruderman.mil@mail.mil](mailto:david.n.ruderman.mil@mail.mil) for details. Hainerberg Chapel hosts a Christmas Eve Mass at 4 p.m., a combined Protestant Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6:30 p.m. and a Midnight Mass at 11:30 p.m. Dec. 24. A Christmas Day Mass will be held Dec. 25 at 9:30 a.m. and a New Year's Eve Mass Dec. 31 at 6 p.m. at Hainerberg Chapel.

## Red Cross classes, blood drive

The Wiesbaden American Red Cross holds a new volunteer orientation Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon and a babysitting with pediatric CPR and first aid class Dec. 29 and 30 at 9 a.m.

## Commissary holiday hours

The Wiesbaden Commissary will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 31.

## Relocation Readiness events

Army Community Service's Relocation Readiness Program

holds English as a Second Language classes Dec. 18 from 7-8:30 p.m., Mainz Christmas Market tour Dec. 19 and a tour of the Hessen State Parliament Jan. 15. Call ACS at civ (0611) 143-548-9201 for details.

## Community Information Exchange

The next Community Information Exchange will be held Jan. 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the Community Activity Center on Wiesbaden's Clay Kaserne. Follow it live on the Garrison Wiesbaden Facebook page.

## BOSS gets busy

Wiesbaden's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers features free BOSS movie night Mondays at 6 p.m. and a BOSS Christmas Party Dec. 19. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9815 or stop by the Warrior Zone on Clay Kaserne for more information.

## American Girl Social

An American Girl Doll Social will be held Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. at the Wiesbaden Library. Make reservations at the library in advance or call civ (0611) 143-548-9821.

## Reconnection workshops

The Wiesbaden American Red Cross offers free and confi-

dential reconnection workshops for military families going through redeployment. Workshops address communicating clearly and focus on topics such as exploring stress and trauma, identifying depression, relating to children and working through anger. For information about holding a workshop for your family or group call the Red Cross at civ (0611) 143-548-1760, email [wiesbaden@redcross.org](mailto:wiesbaden@redcross.org) or stop by the office in Building 1206 on Clay Kaserne.

## Fellowship, Bible study

The Protestant Women of the Chapel host fellowship, worship and Bible study every Tuesday from 9-11:30 a.m. and 6-8 p.m. at the Hainerberg Chapel. Child care is provided.

## Traffic changes on Texasstrasse

The traffic pattern on Texas Strasse in Hainerberg Housing has changed. On school days the section of Texasstrasse between Mississippi Strasse and Florida Strasse is closed to traffic from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except for school buses. All other times of the day/week, Texasstrasse will be one-way only from the intersection of Mississippistrasse to Virginiastrasse. This change

is necessary to alleviate safety concerns on this constricted portion of the street.

## Holiday tree safety

Community members are advised to take a few precautions during the holidays to ensure a safe time for everyone. Make sure the Christmas tree is watered regularly and kept away from any heat sources, check holiday lights to ensure no frayed cables or burnt out bulbs, never use candles on or around tree (candles are not permitted in on-post housing or barracks).

## Welfare grants

Do you belong to a private organization in the Wiesbaden community that is in need of funds for a worthy cause? Consider applying for a Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club welfare grant at [http://wiesbadenspousesclub.com/welfare\\_grants](http://wiesbadenspousesclub.com/welfare_grants). For more information send an email to [welfare@wiesbadenspousesclub.com](mailto:welfare@wiesbadenspousesclub.com).

## Car seat checkups

The Family Advocacy Program holds car seat checkups the last Tuesday of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center parking lot. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9201 to register.

## Sponsorship training

Soldier and civilian sponsorship training is held the third Thursday of every month from 1:30-2 p.m. at the Education Center, building 1023 (the Soldier for Life Center) on Clay Kaserne (Classroom 8).

## Youth of the Chapel

The High School Outreach Club meets Mondays from 5:30-7:15 p.m. The Middle School Outreach Club meets Tuesdays from 3-4:30 p.m. and a Bible Study group meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The clubs and groups meet in Building 7750 in Hainerberg Housing.

## Breastfeeding support

Nursing babies, mothers and mothers-to-be are invited to the La Leche League meetings held on the fourth Friday of the month (the third Fridays in November and December) at 10 a.m. at the USO Cottage in Hainerberg Housing. Call Carol at civ (06257) 942 869 or email [carol.hunter@lalecheliga.de](mailto:carol.hunter@lalecheliga.de) for more information.

## Tips on local culture

All service members, civilians and family members are invited to attend one of the host nation orientations to pick up tips on the culture, language and ways to get around Wiesbaden. The orientations are held every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and start at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center (upstairs). Bring euro for lunch.

## Mainz-Kastel breakfast

Charley's Steakery at the Mainz-Kastel Storage Station food court is now offering breakfast Monday to Friday from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

## AAFES Tent Sale

The Hainerberg Shopping Center Exchange holds Tent Sales through Dec. 21 featuring an Oktoberfest, wine, a Turkish Bazaar, antiques and more.

## Become a Cub Scouts

Are you a boy entering first through fifth-grade interested in having fun? Cub Scouting is a fun and exciting activity for boys aimed at building character and citizenship while developing personal fitness. Email [pack65wiesbaden@googlemail.com](mailto:pack65wiesbaden@googlemail.com) for more information about Scouting opportunities with Pack 65.

## Schoolbits

### School holidays

Wiesbaden Department of Defense Dependents Schools will be closed Dec. 22 to Jan. 2 for winter break. Schools will also be closed Jan. 19 to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Jan. 22 for a teacher work day.

### 'Best for Vets College'

The Military Times "Best for Vets: Colleges 2015" list of top online and non-traditional schools is out, and the University of Maryland University College is ranked number one. (Courtesy of the UMUC Marketing)

### PTA scholarships

The European Parent Teacher Association will be awarding scholarships to 2015 graduating seniors. Application deadline is March 3, 2015. Contact Lois Dent at [lois.dent@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:lois.dent@eu.dodea.edu) for details.

### Spouses Club scholarships

The Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club is accepting applications for WCSC merit-based scholarships through Feb. 28, 2015. Last year the organization gave away \$55,000 to 37 high school seniors and continuing education students in the Wiesbaden military community. Get an application from high school counselors, Army Community Service or online at [wiesbadencommunityspousesclub.com](http://wiesbadencommunityspousesclub.com).

### Paying for school lunches

Did you know that you can pay for your child's school lunch online at <https://www.mypaymentsplus.com/default.aspx>? You can also pay at the Customer Service Desk in the Wiesbaden Main Exchange. (Courtesy of the Wiesbaden Middle School's Weekly Wildcat)

### SpeakUp survey

Parents and students are encouraged to take the Speak Up survey at <http://www.speakup4schools.org/Speakup2014/DefaultDo-DEA.aspx>.

# 'STEMposium': Science, tech conference challenges future engineers with Ebola crisis

Story and photo by  
**Shayna Brouker**  
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden  
Public Affairs Office

More than one hundred of the world's future engineers converged in Wiesbaden to tackle one of the year's biggest crises: the Ebola virus epidemic.

The annual DoDDS-Europe STEMposium held Dec. 7-12, with the theme "Confront Disaster... Engage Your Mind... Save the World," challenged teams of aspiring high school science, technology, engineering and math students from high schools all over Europe to solve the problem of containing Ebola in the Wiesbaden military community.

Upon arrival, the teams were thrust into a crisis. Each team consisted of a robotics engineer, computer simulator, green technology engineer, bioengineer, environmental engineer and civil engineer. During the week, students attended hands-on "STEMinars" focused on specific areas of engineering and science. They work with practicing scientists and engineers during demonstrations and open labs. The U.S. Air Force also engages the students in weather technology, robotics, emergency management, and medical response activities.

One of the highlights of the week was the open house, when parents, teachers, school administrators and other students were invited to watch the STEMposium students test the strength of their towers. Yells



Students, parents, teachers and school administrators wait with bated breath as Pendzich, left, and Chris Weller from Shape High School in Belgium test the strength of towers the students built at the open house Dec. 11.

and gasps filled the room as the rocks kept building. Just a few more, then crash. Cheers erupted as the miniature wooden tower collapsed, its integrity tested to the limit.

"The objective is to store as much of the stress in the structure as possible," explained Frank Pendzich, Wiesbaden High School engineering and technology instructor, to a captive audience. "The results can be destructive."

Engineers from the 5th Signal Brigade evaluated the projects using criteria from the engineering and design process,

added Pendzich. "They were impressed with the displays, saying they were outstanding," he said. "I'd have to concur."

Students were eager to explain their projects, illustrated with posters, charts and diagrams displayed in the room.

"It was awesome," said Angela Jean Francois, a junior at Wiesbaden High School who served as Team Delta's bioengineer. "I like bioengineering, so it was perfect for me. I was surprised to know that bioengineering deals with forensics, and I got to learn how

blood splatter analysis uses the Pythagorean theorem."

Her teammate Ashley Roberts, the team's green technology engineer from Brussels American School, was equally enthusiastic.

"I think if I could do it again, I definitely would," she said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing and I will never forget it. I mean, I saw this thing [a cell energy model] on the first day and I would have chucked it, but now I understand it."

Students may only participate once, in order to allow more to take part every year. For more information, contact Pendzich at (0611) 3600-5144 or [frank.pendzich@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:frank.pendzich@eu.dodea.edu).

## Getting all dogged up

The Kordonows get their king cavalier, Caramel, in wardrobe before his big moment with Santa at the Wiesbaden Veterinary Clinic Dec. 5, where even the pets got an opportunity to take photos with Santa. The clinic's hours of operation will change Jan. 3 to Monday-Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Thursday and Friday. Find more information about local veterinary services at [www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/services/veterinary\\_services.asp](http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/services/veterinary_services.asp).

Photo by Shayna Brouker



## Making friends

Tyrone Calixote, an eighth-grader at Wiesbaden Middle School fluent in German, translates for Principal Dr. Susan Hargis as she introduces students from Heinrich-von-Brentano Schule in Hochheim Dec. 12. The students were given a tour to learn about American schools and treated to a pizza lunch at the Teen Center.

Photo by Shayna Brouker





By Donald Seltzer  
Volksmarch Editor

## Take a hike: A guide to volksmarching in the Kaiserslautern/Wiesbaden area

### Volksmarching notes

The calendar for volksmarching in Germany, Terminliste 2015, is available for €3 in the start hall at most events. This useful booklet lists dates, locations, points of contact and other information for each of the scheduled events in Germany. Also provided is an extensive list of permanent trails. Kaiserslautern- and Spangdahlem-area wanderers may also want to pick up the 2015 volksmarching calendars for France, Luxembourg, or Belgium; some or all of these may be available for €2 or €3 from the DVV Awards Officer when present at an event.

New this year, and replacing the worldwide IVV calendar, is the IVV-Europa 2015 Calendar. This volksmarching calendar provides event information in 19 European countries, to include Germany, and is available for €10 from the DVV Awards Officer. Look for additional event choices at [www.wiesbaden.army.mil/hunion/Takeahike.htm](http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil/hunion/Takeahike.htm).

Got a comment? Found something you'd like to correct? Want to change 'unknown' to a useful trail description? Write the editor at [volksmarch@gmail.com](mailto:volksmarch@gmail.com) with the subject "Feedback."

Many thanks to readers James Meredith and Pat and Cheryl Patterson for providing event brochures.

### Weekend of Dec. 20-21

**Luxembourg-Limpertsberg, Luxembourg (L-1750)** — A few years ago, this event was recommended by volksmarching enthusiast Kay Garsnett who especially enjoys "...December volksmarches that combine St. Nick or Christmas celebrations." Last year, this writer participated in the event and can second Kay's thoughts. This Saturday-only walk has its trails passing by the town's Christmas market. It's a long drive from the KMC (about 90 minutes), but if you've got the time and the weather is nice, should be a worthwhile trip. From the Kaiserslautern military community, use A6 toward Saarbrücken. At Kreuz Neunkirchen connect with A8 toward Luxembourg and continue across the border where it becomes A13. At the Croix de Bettembourg interchange, take A3 toward Luxembourg. Just past the Croix

de Gasperich, the autobahn ends at a roundabout; take the second exit onto B3. Use N3, N50, N57, Boulevard Royal, N52, Avenue Victor Hugo, Square Edouard Andre and Rue Jean-Baptiste Fresez. Watch for IVV signs leading to the start at Limpertsberg. From Bitburg, expect slightly less than an hour's drive. Take B257 south to Echternacherbrück and the border. Cross the Sûre river into Luxembourg and continue toward Luxembourg City using E29 and E421. Once in Luxembourg City, follow IVV signs to Limpertsberg.

**Start:** Hall Victor Hugo at 60 Avenue Victor Hugo **Saturday:** 1-5 p.m. (6 and 12 km) **Trail:** Hilly in places, passing by the Christmas Market **Award:** None.

### Weekend of Dec. 27-28

**Allendorf (56370)** — Expect a pretty walk in the Naturpark Rhein-Taunus northwest of Wiesbaden on this end-of-2014 walk. From Wiesbaden, use A66 toward Frankfurt and A3 toward Limburg, exit at Bad Camberg (44) and follow a secondary road to Beuerbach, Kettenschwalbach and Panrod. Change roads to head toward Burgschwalbach and Zollhaus and connect with B-274 to reach the start. **Start:** Dorfgemeinschaftshaus at Hauptstrasse 67 **Sunday:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (15 km) **Trail:** Fairly hilly, fields and woods **Award:** From previous events.

### Weekend of Jan. 3-5

**Bretzenheim/Nahe (55559)** — This event is just up the road from Bad Kreuznach in the direction of Bingen. You'll enjoy the walk as long as you watch for the trail markings — it's easy to make a wrong turn here. From Bad Kreuznach take B48 north to Bretzenheim. From Wiesbaden and points east take A60 toward Bingen, continuing at its end on a two-lane road to Ginsingen. Follow IVV directional signs to Langenlonsheim and Bretzenheim.

**Start:** Kronenberghalle on Winzenheimer Strasse **Saturday and Sunday:** 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (15 km) **Trail:** Somewhat hilly, vineyards. **Award:** None.

### Weekend of Jan. 10-11

**Runkel an der Lahn (65594)** — The walk is north of Wiesbaden and east of

Limburg. From Wiesbaden, use A66 toward Frankfurt and A3 toward Köln. Exit at Limburg-Süd (43), use B8 through Lindenhofzhausen and Niederbrechen, then pick up a secondary road to reach the start at Runkel.

**Start:** Stadthalle at Am Sportplatz 3 **Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 11 km) and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (6, 11 and 20 km) **Trail:** Hilly, woods **Award:** Set of two latte macchiato tumblers and two tealight holders.

### Weekend of Jan. 17-18

**Schweppenhäuser (55444)** — The trails at this event are part of the IVV-Rundwanderweg Hunsrück, a year-round system of permanent trails offering participants seven routes totaling 160 kilometers. This walk is easily reached from Wiesbaden using A60 toward Bingen, A61 toward Ludwigshafen, and the Waldlaubersheim exit (47). Follow IVV signs on secondary roads through Windesheim to the start. From the KMC, use A6 toward Mannheim, A63 toward Mainz and A61 toward Koblenz. Exit at Waldlaubersheim (47) to use secondary roads to the start at Schweppenhäuser.

**Start:** Schlossgartenhalle **Saturday and Sunday:** 8 a.m. to noon (5, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Hilly trails, fields and woods **Award:** None.

### Weekend of Jan. 31 to Feb. 1

**Kleinich/Hunsrück (54483)** — This event is north-northwest of Idar-Oberstein and fairly accessible to volksmarchers in other locations. From Wiesbaden and points east, use Autobahns 60 toward Bingen and 61 toward Koblenz, then exit at Rheinböllen (45). Follow B-50 past Simmern, Kirchberg, and Hahn Airport to reach a minor road at Hochscheid that leads to Kleinich. From Baumholder, head toward Neubrück via minor roads to reach B-41/B-269. Head north through Birkenfeld to connect with B-327 toward Hahn Airport. Take the minor road at Hochscheid to the start at Kleinich. From the KMC, use Autobahns 6 toward Saarbrücken and 62 toward Trier, and exit at Birkenfeld (4). Take B41/B-269 north to Morbach and B-327 toward Hahn Airport. Use the minor road at Hochscheid to reach Kleinich.

**Start:** Gemeindehaus at Orts Strasse 53 **Saturday and Sunday:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6, 10 and 15 km) **Trails:** Hilly, wooded areas **Award:** From previous events.



### USO travel

Join the USO for trips to the **Stuttgart Christmas Market** Dec. 20, **Cologne Christmas Market** Dec. 20, **Rothenburg Christmas Market** Dec. 21, **Christmas in Bassano del Grappa (Italy)** Dec. 22-26, **Black Forest** Dec. 26, the **Brussels Winter Festival** Dec. 27, the **Technical Museum in Sinsheim** Jan. 10, **Tropic Islands Express** Jan. 17, **Speyer and Sea Life Aquarium** Jan. 24 and the **Riesling Route** Jan. 25. Stop by any area USO or call civ (0611) 143-548-5106 for more information.

## Things to do ... Things to do

### Outdoor Recreation trips

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation goes to **Rothenburg** Dec. 20. Outdoor Rec also offers **Christmas and New Years in Greece and Italy** Dec. 20 to Jan. 2, **skiing and snowboarding in Bellamonte (Italy)** Dec. 21-26, **partying in Calella (Spain)** Dec. 28 to Jan. 3, **Black Forest ski and snowboard day trip** Jan. 3 and overnight Jan. 10-11 and **Chamonix-Blanc** Jan. 15-19. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9801 for more information.

### 'Messiah' sing-along

The St. Augustine's Church (English Church) in Wiesbaden invites all of Wiesbaden for a sing-along version of Handel's "Messiah" Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. The St. Augustine Chamber Orchestra and a cast of solo singers will support the event. For more information visit [www.staugustines-wiesbaden.de](http://www.staugustines-wiesbaden.de).

### Christmas Circus in Biebrich

The renowned Christmas circus offers fun for the whole family Dec. 19 – Jan. 5 at the

Gibber Kerb fest grounds in Wiesbaden-Biebrich, Bleichwiesenstrasse. Tickets range from €10-€30 and are available at (0152) 2666-1609. More information is at [www.wiesbadener-weihnachtszircus.de](http://www.wiesbadener-weihnachtszircus.de).

### 'Peter Pan'

The English-language Theater Unlimited Performing Company presents "Peter Pan," a new musical adventure, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at 2 and 6 p.m. in the Bad Homburg Kurtheater. Call civ (06172) 178 3710 for reservations.



### Area Christmas markets

Explore Christmas markets in **Wiesbaden** through Dec. 23, in **Mainz** through Dec. 23, in **Rüdesheim** through Dec. 21 and in **Frankfurt** through Dec. 22.

### Chanukah celebration

The Jewish community of Wiesbaden invites all to celebrate Chanukah Dec. 21 at the Roncalli House at Friedrich Strasse 26-28. Enjoy *kreppel* (donuts), singing and dance and choir performances. For more information visit [www.jg-wi.de](http://www.jg-wi.de).

**Wiesbaden High School point guard Rebecca Russel pushes the ball on the fast break to beat a Bitburg defender to the basket during action in the team's home opener Dec. 6.**  
Photo by Chrystal Smith



## Warrior winter sports heat up

By Mackinley Bullock  
Special to the Herald Union

Despite the weather being a little colder, winter sports action is heating up at Wiesbaden High School after strong showings on the courts, mats and in the pool by Warrior athletes.

Competition in the Division I Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe 2014-15 basketball, wrestling and cheerleading seasons kicked off Dec. 5-6.

The Warriors boys and girls basketball teams contended against Bitburg both days, opening the season on the road and returning home the following day. The girls secured an easy win Friday night with a score of 47-32 over the lady Barons. But action the next day had everyone on the edge of their seats during their home opener, as they held on to win 39-37.

"I think this weekend went well because we won, however we still have some fine tuning to do like any team does at the beginning of the season," said Cierra Martin, senior captain.

Coming into the season as reign-

ing champions, the Lady Warriors have high hopes to keep it that way.

"I want a repeat of last season more than anything. It would be an amazing feeling to leave my senior year with two basketball championships," said Martin.

The boys are hopeful to gain the title they came so close to winning last year and are working hard for it, as the outcome of opening weekend play suggests. The boys routed the Barons with two commanding victories; winning 69-35 on Friday and 64-24 on Saturday.

"We played really cohesively as a team but most of all we played a great defense," said Isaah Negron, sophomore point guard. "We didn't allow them to put up any easy shots. Both wins were a great start to our season."

### On the mats

The wrestling team opened the season away at Ansbach on Dec. 5 and had a solid start to its season. Even though the team is less in number this year its roster has several contenders who hope to go far throughout the season.

"It was a good first meet, but we

are practicing really hard in order to take first place in our only home meet that we have this season," said Ian Hughes, senior returning wrestler, who reported that the team took second overall in the competition.

The wrestling team had a total of four first-place finishers: Ian Hughes, Jeremiah Gerber, Matt Hall and Zach Krapf.

### Making a splash

The Wiesbaden Wahoos swim team hosted a home meet — The Battle of the Bubble — Dec. 7 and performed well at the largest meet the team will participate in all season. Some standout swimmers include Max Petrunyak, Nina Song, Marina Levochkina, Jon Roddy, Maddie Williams and Antonia Wright who lead the way with the fastest times for qualification.

After the opening weekend of competition, hopes among fans are high for the Warrior teams; with expectations to bring several championships back to Wiesbaden at season's end. (Mackinley Bullock, a Wiesbaden High School senior, is a student with the garrison's Public Affairs Office.)



### Jingle all the way

The 5th Signal Command guidon bearer, Santa and elf, head to the finish of the Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk Dec. 13 outside of the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. More than 250 individuals took part in the last run in the 2014 series of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation monthly five-kilometer events offered by Wiesbaden Sports and Fitness Program. The 2015 series will begin again with the "March Madness" fun run.

Photo by Chrystal Smith

## Sport shorts

### New hours in January

The Wiesbaden Fitness Center will have new hours starting Jan. 1. The center will be open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, federal and training holidays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9831 for more information.

### Krav Maga, self defense workshops

The Wiesbaden fitness center offers a women's self-defense course 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 17 and a Krav Maga basic workshop 1:30-5:30 p.m. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9831 for more information.

### Free exercise classes

Wiesbaden Sports and Fitness offers free Zumba classes Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 9:30 p.m.; aerobics (Turbo Kick and Cardio Circuit) Wednesdays at 9 a.m. at the Army Community Service cafeteria in Hainerberg Housing, building 7790. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9201 for details.

### Holiday fitness options

Don't let holiday eating weigh you down. The Wiesbaden Fitness Center offers a variety of fitness classes — Krav Maga, Zumba, FFT, Spin, Muscle Failure, Yoga, Pilates and more — to keep you moving and in shape through the holidays. Check out December's fitness classes at <http://wiesbaden.armymwr.com>. Classes are \$5 each or \$45 for a book of 10 vouchers.

### 2015 Fitness Resolution Day

Kick off the new year with free classes, demonstrations, contests and competitions at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center's Fitness Resolution Day Jan. 24.

### Recreational shooting

Head to the Wackernheim Range (Ober-Olmer Strasse 37, 55263) to enjoy some recreational shooting Jan. 24, Feb. 21 and March 21. Cost is \$8 with membership in Wiesbaden's Hunting Fishing and Sport Shooting Program, \$12 for non-members. First-timers must register for the mandatory safety briefing by 9:45 a.m. Call Outdoor Recreation at civ (0611) 143-548-9801 for more information.

### Cheer on Warriors

Show your support for Wiesbaden High School athletes during competition at home during its 2014-15 winter sports season. The basketball teams host Vilseck High School Jan. 9 and 10; Patch Jan. 16 and 17; Ramstein Jan. 31; Kaiserslautern Feb. 7; and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-European Basketball and Cheerleading Championships Feb. 18-21. The marksmanship team hosts competitions at home Jan. 10 and Jan. 24.

### Wiesbaden Volksmarching Club

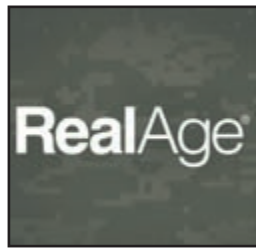
The Wiesbaden International Wandering Club is now an official private organization — already recognized by the DVV and IVV. WIWC members are entitled to participate in bus trips as well as monthly meetings and other events. Find out about upcoming events by visiting [www.wiwc-volksmarching.de](http://www.wiwc-volksmarching.de) or come to a general membership and information meeting on the third Monday of each month at the Landchen Restaurant and Sportsbar (Oberfeld 7, 65205 Wiesbaden-Erbenheim).



## Ready and Resilient ... Ready and Resilient

### Fitness tool gives real age, insight to overall health

By Thomas Blakely  
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden  
Ready and Resilient (R2) Director



What's your Real Age  
Are you younger or older than you should be?

To find out, the Army has a great tool known as RealAge. A person's "Real-Age" is a determination of how old one's body truly is, based on medical conditions, lifestyle and health habits. Roughly 70% of one's overall health is determined by how well he or she takes

care of himself or herself. Knowing one's RealAge can give greater insight into an individual's overall health and well-being.

Located within the ArmyFit environment at <https://armyfit.army.mil>, an individual can use the Global Assessment Tool to assess overall health

in a number of different categories or dimensions such as emotional, social, family, spiritual and physical. The results of this assessment will then tell one's RealAge — whether one is older or younger than the age according to an official birth date.

An individual can use the outcome, which is presented as a numerical score, to make health-conscience decisions regarding emotional, social, family, spiritual and physical dimensions of one's life.

The difference between your RealAge and actual age can tell one if he or she is expected to live longer. Healthy habits such as getting enough sleep, staying hydrated, eating the right portion sizes and exercising regularly can help lower an individual's RealAge.

Army Fit, the GAT and RealAge are all open to Soldiers, civilians and family members. Leveraging these powerful tools and resources can be the first step toward making one healthier and more resilient.

### Eye injuries avoidable with use of proper eye protection

By Terri Moon Cronk  
American Forces Press Service

When on the field of play or the field of battle, having vision is critical.

That is why leaders are taking this opportunity to remind service members to take care when it comes to protecting one's eyes.

Dr. Robert Mazzoli, an ophthalmologist at the Vision Center of Excellence at Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., noted the Iraq and Afghanistan wars of more than a decade produced a historic high in the percentage of eye injuries.

"When we were first going into Iraq, eye injuries accounted for 25 percent of all combat casualties," he said. "That's because people weren't wearing their eye protection."

That was when warfare was different and comprised mostly of artillery, Mazzoli said. After the introduction of improvised explosive devices, he said, eye injuries dropped to about 10 to 15 percent, which still is higher than it's been in the U.S. history of war.

After witnessing fellow troops with compromised or lost vision, service members eventually began to understand the importance of wearing their protective eyewear, he noted.

The military is assertive about its service members wearing protective eye wear, Mazzoli said.

"If you can't see, you can't shoot [and] that becomes in-



Whether on the battlefield or the playing field, service members should take necessary care to properly protect one's eyes to avoid injury."

effective to the unit and the service member," he said.

The military spent a lot of money on improving its eyewear, Mazzoli said.

"We have continually modified, improved and refined combat eye protection," for such issues as visual clarity, he said, adding that the combat eye protection the military is fielding is bulletproof and can stop fragments. And since about 2005, commercial eyeglass companies have contracted with the military to make combat eyewear a bit more fashionable too, the doctor said.

"Prevention is always better than treatment," Mazzoli

said. "The number-one point is to wear eye protection even when you don't think you need it, because that's when you're going to wish you had it."

"Eye injuries are completely avoidable," Mazzoli said.

Even outside the combat arena, some 90 percent of eye injuries that happen at home could be prevented by wearing eye protection, he said.

Simple activities such as using a hammer, stretching a bungee cord or using weed eaters are common causes of eye injuries when protective eyewear isn't used, Mazzoli said.

Recreational activities also can take a toll on eye injuries.

Basketball is a common source of eye injuries, he said.

"Even LeBron James [of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers] wore a big plastic mask because he got elbowed and broke his nose," he said.

When an eye injury occurs, it is critical to not apply pressure to the eye before seeing a doctor to avoid further damage, Mazzoli emphasized. Unlike tight tourniquets and compresses used to stop bleeding in other parts of the body, eye injuries should not be patched, he said.

Shielding the eye with glasses or sunglasses is acceptable as long as they do not touch the eye, Mazzoli said.

Another approach to keeping eyes healthy is to take breaks from electronics, such as computer monitors, smartphones, tablets, GPS units and other items with screens, because they strain the eye from "near work," he said.

Activities such as crocheting, woodworking and reading books also qualify as "near" work, he pointed out. Televisions usually don't apply because they are not close enough to cause eye-strain, Mazzoli said.

For "near" activities, Mazzoli suggests the "20/20/20 rule:" Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

Routine eye examinations are important to maintaining healthy eyes, he said, adding that a family eye history of a disease such as glaucoma or diabetes dictates how often people should visit their eye doctor.

Wearing sunglasses with ultraviolet protection year-round also is important for healthy vision, he said.

The eye "is the window to the body, because [certain] diseases such as hypertension and diabetes can be seen in the back of the eye," Mazzoli said.

He added, "If we see diabetic changes going on in the eye, there's a good chance those kinds of changes are happening in the kidney, brain, heart, liver and everywhere else in the body," he pointed out.



In "Annie" a foster kid, who lives with her mean foster mom, sees her life change when business tycoon and New York mayoral candidate Will Stacks makes a thinly-veiled campaign move and takes her in.

## At the movies Dec. 18-31

Dec. 18 — Addicted (R) 7 p.m.

Dec. 19 — The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dec. 20 — Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) 4 p.m., The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dec. 21 — Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) 4 p.m., The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dec. 22 — Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) 7 p.m.

Dec. 23 — Closed

Dec. 24 — The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dec. 25 — Annie (PG) 7 p.m.

Dec. 26 — Into the Woods (PG) 7 p.m.

Dec. 27 — Annie (PG) 4 p.m., Unbroken (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dec. 28 — Into the Woods (PG) 4 p.m., Unbroken (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dec. 29 — Unbroken (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dec. 30 — Closed

Dec. 31 — Into the Woods (PG) 4 p.m.

Jan. 1 — Closed

(Editor's note: The movies listing was the most current at the time of publication. Visit [https://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Hainerberg-\(Wiesbaden\)-1368178](https://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Hainerberg-(Wiesbaden)-1368178) for more accurate dates and times.)



"The Hobbit - The Battle of the Five Armies" A reluctant hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, sets out to the Lonely Mountain with a spirited group of dwarves to reclaim their mountain home and the gold within it from the dragon Smaug.

## Movie plots

**Addicted (R)** — Successful business woman Zoe Reynard appears to have attained it all: the dream husband she loves, two wonderful children and a flourishing career. As perfect as everything appears from the outside, Zoe is still drawn to temptations she cannot escape or resist. As she pursues a secretive life, Zoe finds herself risking it all when she heads down a perilous path she may not survive.

**The Hobbit (PG-13) (3D)** — The Dwarves of Erebor have reclaimed the vast wealth of their homeland, but now must face the consequences of having unleashed the terrifying Dragon, Smaug, upon the defenseless men, women and children of Lake-town. As he succumbs to dragon-sickness, the King Under the Mountain, Thorin Oakenshield, sacrifices friendship and honor in his search for the legendary Arkenstone. Unable to help Thorin see reason, Bilbo is driven to make a desperate and dangerous choice, not knowing that even greater perils lie ahead.

**Night at the Museum (PG)** — Get ready for the most adventure-filled Night At the Museum ever as Larry spans the globe, uniting favorite and new characters while embarking on an epic quest to save the magic before it is gone forever.

**Annie (PG)** — Originally left by her parents as a baby with the promise that they'd be back for her someday, it's been a hardknock life ever since with her mean foster mom Miss Hannigan. But everything's about to change when the hard-nosed tycoon and New York mayoral candidate Will Stacks — advised by his brilliant VP, Grace and his shrewd and scheming campaign advisor, Guy — makes a thinly-veiled campaign move and takes her in. Stacks believes he's her guardian angel, but Annie's self-assured nature and bright, sun-will-come-out-tomorrow outlook on life just might mean it's the other way around.

**Unbroken (PG-13)** — An unbelievable and inspiring true story about the resilient power of the human spirit.

**Into the Woods (PG-13)** — A modern twist on the beloved Brothers Grimm fairy tales, intertwining the plots of a few choice stories and exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. This humorous and heartfelt musical is tied together by an original story involving a baker and his wife, their wish to begin a family and their interaction with the witch who has put a curse on them.

## Taunus Team Bonus: Razzle Dazzle Turkey Raffle

The Taunus Movie Theater team presents the Razzle Dazzle Turkey Raffle, where moviegoers get a chance to win a Popeye's Cajun-Style Turkey. Pre-purchase a ticket from 1-6 p.m. on Dec. 19 for the 7 p.m. showing of "The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies" and receive a raffle ticket that will be automatically entered into the drawing that will be held on Dec. 19 after the feature in the concession area at the Taunus Theater. Also, with a pre-purchased ticket receipt, get 15 percent off your next meal at one of the Hainerberg Restaurants.

\*One ticket per purchased admission only. Purchase receipt is valid at the following participating Restaurants: Taco Bell, Popeye's Chicken, Burger King, Anthony's Pizza or Baskin-Robbins for Friday, Dec. 19, 2014 only. Limited to one receipt per customer visit and cannot be combined with any other offer.





Werner Gaug plays a French horn solo in front of the Landespolizei Orchester Hessen as they perform the piece "Horn Konzert Es-Dur" for members of the military community in Wiesbaden during a Christmas concert in celebration of German-American friendship Dec. 9 at the Hainerberg Chapel.

## Friendship set to music

Story and photos by  
Chrystal Smith  
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden  
Public Affairs Office

A famous American poet once said, "Music is the universal language of mankind."

And just as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow realized music's power of uniting cultures, so too did Dr. Franz Walter and the USO Dec. 9 when they presented the Americans in Wiesbaden the Landespolizei Orchester.

"We wanted people to come together," said Walter, USO volunteer who shouldered much of the task of coordinating the special event in the Hainerberg Chapel, billed as a Christmas concert in celebration of German-American friendship. "It's to say thank you and to express our gratitude to the Americans in Wiesbaden."

"What music does is great. Music just brings people together," said Daniel Steen, USO volunteer. "This kind of thing is appropriate for building friendships."

The event brought nearly 300 together in one of the oldest sectors of the military neighborhood; Hainerberg Housing, around since 1954, according to Walter, who has volunteered for 30 years with the American service organization.

The longtime friend to the American military community said, "The impact of the U.S. forces is tremendous to Wiesbaden," and wanted make a grand gesture of

kindness to show "how good relations here are."

The concert was symbolic of the friendship between the U.S. forces and Hessen, and also served as an informal tribute to the establishment of the German state and a nod to the efforts made during the Berlin Airlift nearly seven decades before.

This was the second time the Hessen Police Orchestra played to the exclusive audience, and though the first concert turnout seemed somewhat disheartening, Walter and Alfred Herr, conductor, were willing to have another go at it for the sake of keeping the long-standing friendship kindled.

"We'll try it again," said Walter, recounting that the weather on that evening in 2013 was unfavorable.

"We had experiences with Americans in other places such as the Marktkirche, and there were often more Americans than Germans," Herr said, convinced bad weather was the blame for the low attendance in 2013. "I knew the Americans would show up this time."

Herr said he remains hopeful in keeping the fire burning in the friendship.

"It's normal [the humble beginning]. We are building a tradition," he said.

The band's playlist was much



Laurie-Anne McGowan sings the spiritual "Little Baby Jesus" during the Christmas concert Dec. 9.

like the programs it traditionally plays in other venues, which comprised more classical and opera. The group added a few holiday tunes also to please its American audience.

"This is a nice contrast to the U.S. Army Europe Band Holiday Concert," said Robert Gilpatrick, USO administrative assistant who also sat in with the band and played the trombone. "This is a nice way of the Germans presenting back to us."

The USAREUR concert was held Dec. 16 at the Wiesbaden Kurhaus, where the U.S. Army in Wiesbaden presented the holiday concert to the German community.

# Wiesbaden welcomes holiday season



Annual tree lighting event transforms Clay Kaserne, readies community for celebration

By Chrystal Smith  
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden  
Public Affairs Office

Lights, sirens, Santa. That was the order of the evening when the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden community gathered for its annual Tree Lighting celebration Dec. 5 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center on Clay Kaserne.

Kids from one to 92 engaged in a variety of holiday activities, welcoming the Jolly Old Elf — who made his entrance by fire truck rather than by sleigh — and the spirit of the holidays with music, crafts, food and games.

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, U.S. Army Europe commander, with the help a few community youths pushed the plunger to illuminate the holiday tree, but not before the general welcomed the crowd and reminded all to remember Soldiers and military members who would be deployed to combat zones during the holidays.

The scene of a small winter village was the setting as festival booths and hundreds of people surrounded the spruce pine standing about 46 feet, or 14 meters, high in the center of the square.

A variety of musical offerings kept the airwaves filled with holiday harmony as the event featured performances from the community schools (Wiesbaden High and Middle Schools, and Hainerberg and Aukamm Elementary Schools), U.S. Army Europe Band Kaiser Brass and a special session from The New Generation Band, a German pop and folklore band from Bischöfliches Willigis-Gymnasium and Maria Ward-Schule Mainz. Wiesbaden Middle School cheerleaders also performed a few routines at the center of the indoor festivities.

Children made their way around the celebration

taking time to make holiday crafts, bounce a few rounds in the bouncy castle, play games and mail letters to Santa.

And while there was much fun to be had all around the arena, the highlight of the evening for most was the opportunity to get a picture with Santa. Nearly 300 waited their turn in line to get the traditional photo with the man who has been keeping tabs on those who have been naughty and nice.

Photos with Santa were taken courtesy of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Special Events and can be viewed and downloaded at the Wiesbaden Family and MWR Facebook page.

DFMWR said thanks to the behind-the-scenes efforts of the Directorate of Public Works, Airmen volunteers from 485th Intelligence Squadron, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, Wiesbaden Outreach Kontakt Club, and Red Cross and the event sponsors — Veterans of Foreign

Wars Post 27, Wiesbaden Dental Care, BMW Karl and Company, Military Auto Source and Andrews Federal Credit Union.

"Everyone comes together to make these things happen and to make Wiesbaden our home in Germany," said Joe Harris, chief of FMWR Special Events division. "It's truly a community effort."



More than 2,000 gathered on the square in front of the Wiesbaden Fitness Center Dec. 5 to light the community Christmas tree and set the mood for the holidays while enjoying food, games, music and crafts.

Photos by Chrystal Smith



Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, USAREUR commander, employs the help of community youths to light the tree and get the celebration underway Dec. 5. Photo right: An elf tosses a ball to try his skill at toppling a stack of cans at one of the carnival games on the square.



Visitors to the tree lighting celebration are treated to the stylings of The New Generation Band, a German pop and folklore band from Bischöfliches Willigis-Gymnasium and Maria Ward-Schule Mainz.